**Student Government Association Minutes**

October 15, 2013

1. ROLL CALL: Amy McDonald, Adam LaMontagne, Steven Barber, Molly Miller, Ashley Erskine, Brooke Laroche were absent. Luis Arzola, Lisa Lennon, Samantha Pellegrini, Yaira Castellon-Torres were excused. Jocelyn Herrera-Lazo, Ryan Losco and Andrw Morin sent alternates.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM October 08, 2013: Minutes were tabled for approval until next week.
2. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: *Taylor Fote*
3. First off on our agenda we have Vice President Elizabeth Preston here from Academic Affairs.
   * + 1. Dr. Elizabeth Preston: Hello. I’d be happy to take any questions you may have for me.
4. **Victoria Landry**: do you know the date for winter courses registration?
5. **Dr. Elizabeth Preston**: I’m not sure of the date, I will check that out and send an email to students.
6. **Richard Darrach**: I’ve heard a little bit about SMARTS Grants, can you explain that program?
7. **Dr. Elizabeth Preston**: We have SMARTS Grants, which are grants for travel. I know SGA has some travel funding as well. SMARTS Grants are specifically for students who are travelling to present research or conduct research. You apply through the office of the Dean of Undergraduate studies. There’s $10,000.00 a year given to us by the Foundation to make those grants available.
8. **Joshua Frank**: How would I apply for a SMARTS Grant?
9. **Dr. Elizabeth Preston**: You would want to speak with Jean Placzek, over in the office of Academic Affairs. The grants go through her office and they go to Dean Marsha Marotta and then processed through the Grants Committee, but Jean Placzek has information for that.
10. **Taylor Fote**: How much can a student get from this grant?
11. **Dr. Elizabeth Preston**: The limit is $500.00.
12. **Rebecca DiVico**: Request of Information: Up to three people per group can together get up to $1500.00. You don’t need a group to apply though.
13. **Tom Durkee**: Request of Information, in regards to Victoria Landry’s question Registration begins November; I believe the 12th and the 17th were the dates listed.
14. **Taylor Fote**: I will be speaking later in my report about Commencement for the class of 2015 on campus or off campus. Do you have any information to supplement that discussion?
15. **Dr. Elizabeth Preston**: Just so it’s clear, this year, commencement will be at the Mass Mutual Center. We’ve had some conversations about moving it to Friday night, but I don’t know that a final decision has been made, AUC sends it to APC, who recommended moving it to Friday night, AUC recommended keeping it on Saturday, both recommendations go to the president and I don’t know that a decision has been made. The default position is that it would be Saturday. The question is what to do moving forward, whether to bring it back to campus, etc… Carlton Pickron, do you know anything about the construction on Western Avenue? That would certainly be a factor in all of this and complicate the possibility of having it on campus for 2015 for example.
16. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: Right now, it’s looking like either 2013 or 2015. City Hall is hoping for 2015. Michael Foyle is a resident of Western Avenue and might have some information.
17. **Lieutenant Michael Foyle**: In the ideal world, it starts the spring of 2015. We don’t live in the ideal world. We’re looking at late 2015, into 2016.
18. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: So that sounds like it would be a mess if I bring over 2,000 people onto campus while that’s going on.
19. **Dr. Elizabeth Preston**: So, I think that’s the other factor that’s in the mix right now because know Western Avenue is getting torn up at some point. The reason we moved to the Mass Mutual Center was because of the work on University Hall, the question is if there will be disruptions that will keep us off campus for a little longer.
20. I am passing around a contact sheet for Sarah Hegarty, please make sure your information is filled in.
21. There is a forum Monday, October 21st on the hospitality industry in Scanlon Living room. The speaker they have coming is Sean Welch from the Hampshire Hospitality group. If you have any questions let me know.
22. There are voter registration forms next to the mailboxes from MassPirg, since there is an election coming up you can register here and then you get to vote at Juniper Park. It’s a great opportunity, and you will be registered to vote anyways, so why not take upon this opportunity?
23. Also, tonight at 6:30 pm there is a Historic Artist Reception upstairs in the Library. It’s from the Third World Room last year. There’s going to be a lot of great pieces. Carlton Pickron, would you like to add anything else about that?
    * + 1. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: I think only the seniors and juniors would remember the Third World Room, but the murals from the walls of that room are gone, but thanks to digital photographs, have been reproduced on canvas for display this evening. There will be refreshments and a few of the artists coming back to speak about their experience, when these were initially painted, many years ago.
24. I wanted to thank anyone who came out to help Kevin Soucie and Brittany Walters with the Blood Drive. Brittany Walters will speak more on that. I would like to remind everyone to act professionally at events where we are student leaders.
25. Finally, to go off what Dr. Elizabeth Preston was talking about, I’d like to get constructive feedback from underclassmen to bring back to AUC regarding graduation location for 2015 and on.
26. **Olivia Dumas**: Logistically, I’ve been to a few graduations off campus and as far as outdoor set up and parking on campus can be really hard, on top of construction.
27. **Tom Durkee**: I’ve seen a graduation on campus and having graduation on the green is really nice, but logistically, it’s hard. You can really see everything, or hear, and you’re squished in a hot tent so a two hour event like this is not a comfortable and enjoyable event.
28. **Joshua Clark**: As a member of AUC, I’ve learned that the Class of 2015 has not seen graduation on campus, and the Class of 2016 has not seen a graduation on Saturday. I think it’s nice to have it on campus, but the logistics are better for Mass Mutual Center and we are only aware of the way it’s been since we’ve been here so we don’t know what it’s like to have it on the green.
29. **Joshua Frank**: Having it at the Mass Mutual Center saves the school $45,000.00 so that is financially better.
30. **Brittany Walters**: I understand having it at the Mass Mutual Center is nice with the air conditioning and what not, but I know personally, I have a big family and a larger facility to seat more family per student would be nice.
31. **Evelyn Dina**: Could it be held at Stanley Park, or is that a stretch?
32. **Dr. Carlton Pickron**: We used to have Commencement on Alumni Field, rain or shine, no tent. There’s no place on campus to fit the entire graduating undergraduate student body and DGCE students, plus family members. The tent on the green did not have a limit on how many people you could bring, but often your family would not hear your name called, let alone see you cross the stage, because you’re all sitting at the same level and it gets far back. Mass Mutual Center has multilevel seating, air conditioning, etc. We’ve had snow, sleet, wind storms and so on happened at commencement, so planning outside affairs are never easy.
33. **Andrew Dalesandro**: Four tickets for family is a pretty generous number since classes keep increasing in number and there are usually left overs. But on campus, the Dining Commons and other areas, as well as traffic, it gets really backed up with that many people at once.
34. **Allison Davis**: The green floods like crazy, and we all know it. If it rains that day, or even the few days before, we’ll be sitting in water. It just makes more sense to have it indoors.
35. **Andrew McCormack**: Request of Information: If it does rain, they pump out the water. But that is an additional cost.
36. **Sarah Hegarty**: I’ve been a big fan of returning commencement to the green but after talking with alumni who had commencement on the green, they advise us to stick to the Mass Mutual Center. I liked the idea of leaving from the campus as my last movement, but it’s not worth it. The poetic symbolism is lost when you’re sweating and miserable.
37. **Tom Durkee**: Another plus to Mass Mutual, we do stream it live to be watched online if someone can’t make it. The space makes filming much more effective with lighting and such.
38. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: I’m all for having it at Mass Mutual. It’s one of the only places big enough to hold that man people, unless we want to graduate at a building at UMass.
39. **Dana Kilby**: How far is the Mass Mutual Center from Campus? I’m from Connecticut and I’m not familiar with it.
40. **Taylor Fote**: It’s about 15- 20 minutes, it’s really simple to get to and there is a lot of parking nearby.
41. **Chris Michaud**: Just to put into perspective for parking, think of parent day and sports games and how packed the lots get. People end up parking on the grass in South Lot at some points and that’s still less than the amount of people for Commencement. I completely agree it should be off campus.
42. **Richard Darrach**: I agree with Lieutenant Foyle, in an ideal world having it on campus would be great and there would be a lot of sentimental value to graduating here, but once you’re there, it’s not as nice as it sounds.
43. **Amy Szlachetka**: One thing that happened, when we had it on campus, is that once students walked across the stage, they walked right out, so only half of the students stayed in the audience for the rest of the ceremony.
44. **Richard Darrach**: I move to close the Speakers list. Motion Carried.
45. I’d like to thank Peter Mazza for coming down today. It’s always great to have you back.
46. The Rays of Hope walk is this Saturday, October 19th they are leaving from Scanlon at 8:30 am and should be back by 1:00 pm. If anyone is interested in going, they still have several seats left on the bus, so see me after the meetings.
47. Finally, I’d like to say very happy early Birthday to Rebecca DiVico who turns 21, tomorrow, October 16th.
    * + 1. **Sarah Hegarty**: The Art Gallery is a unit opportunity and the Rays of Hope walk is two units and hour.
        2. **Katie Wilga**: I thought the Rays of Hope walk is on Sunday, and you said Saturday. Is there two days for it?
        3. **Taylor Fote**: I’m sorry, I misspoke. It’s Sunday, October 20th.
        4. **Amanda McCarthy**: Is there going to be a debate for Friday vs. Saturday Commencement at any point?
        5. **Taylor Fote**: Not at the moment.
48. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 22nd at 5:30 pm.
49. Items not listed on Agenda.
50. BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ REPORT**:** *Stone Koury*
51. Hi Everyone. So the Board’s special meeting is tomorrow, October 16th at 2:00 pm in the President’s Board Room. in the upper level of Horace Mann Center. I do encourage you to come, but it seems we will be entering Executive session for a good portion of the meeting. I will have a full extensive report for you next Tuesday, October 22nd.
52. All University Committee**: Joshua Clark**
53. The All University Committee met last Wednesday, October 9th. We discussed a variety of things, namely commencement. That was the main issue of the meeting, for the most part.
54. Co-Chair of the Academic Policies Committee, Corinne Ebbs, come to answer questions for AUC regarding the academic calendar change. AUC decided during the meeting to hold a campus discussion, with multiple elements to try to tackle the issue of Friday vs. Saturday commencement.
55. Some of the things that AUC is doing to combat this issue are; there will be an article in the Westfield Voice, a campus forum, an email survey and sending a liaison to the Commencement Committee, which will be Laurie Simpson.
56. We also voted to consider re-voting on changing the date of Commencement 2014, which, after discussion, allowed four people to change their original votes. The vote to change the commencement 2014 date from Saturday to Friday was struck down again 2 to 10. Now both decisions will get sent to President Dobelle with the comments from both the AUC and APC.
57. Now President Dobelle will make a decision based on this past AUC meeting on whether Commencement 2014 should be Friday or Saturday. If you want any particular Day, I suggest lobbying him because AUC and APC have already had their say. It’s not up to the students to change his mind; I would encourage anyone who had additional comments on commencement to attend the forums or even the AUC meetings.
58. Our next scheduled meeting will be October 23rd at 4:30 pm in the Parenzo Boardroom.
59. Neighborhood Advisory Board**: No Report**
60. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-STUDENT LIFE**:** *Rebecca DiVico*
61. Hello everyone. So as a reminder, all senators need to sit on two committees. There are a few committees that fall under the VP of Student Life.
62. First there is the Substance Advisory Committee. We discuss policies having to do with drugs and alcohol.
63. The Student Affairs Committee meets with the directors under Student Affairs and we talk about what’s going on in each department.
64. The Parking Appeals Committee deals with appeals from people with issues with parking.
65. The Health Committee will work with Health Services. A student is the chair of that meeting.
66. I am going to send the list around, if you are interested, put your name down. The only definite date and time that I have right now is for Student Affairs Committee. We meet once a month, on a Thursday at 3:45 pm. I can give you the exact dates, if you are interested after the meeting.
67. Student Affairs Committee**: No Report**
68. Multicultural Committee**: No Report**
69. Food Services Committee**: No Report**
70. Health Committee: **No Report**
71. Parking Control Board: **No Report**
72. Student Athletic Advisory Board: **No Report**
73. Substance Advisory Committee: **No Report**
74. Community Relations/Fundraising Report**: Brittany Walters**
75. I just wanted to thank everyone who either, donated or volunteered at the Blood Drive. We had our busiest turn out that we’ve had in a while. 169 students signed in, and only 35 were deferred. There were 136 productive units, which included 17 double reds. We helped save 400 lives. Let’s strive to keep it up for the next Blood Drive.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-ACADEMIC LIFE: *Andrew McCormack*
2. Academic Policies Committee: **No Report**
3. Curriculum Committee: **No Report**
4. Enrollment Management Committee: **No Report**
5. Campus Technology Committee**: No Report**
6. International Programs Committee: **No Report**
7. Library Advisory Committee**: No Report**
8. Writing Liaison**: No Report**
9. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-PROGRAMMING: *Steve Kligerman*
10. Programming update: **Steve Kligerman**
11. Tickets for Fright Fest went on sale today. There are zero tickets left and we started with 84 to be sold, so we are excited about the interest this drew.
12. Trivia is tomorrow at 8:00 pm in the Owls Nest. $60.00 in Owl Bucks for the winning team. We are teaming up with ResLife as it will be a part of Oktoberfest, so one whole round will be questions about alcohol awareness. There will be pizza.
13. Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 16th at 5:00 pm in the Owls Nest.

1. VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT-FINANCE: *Joshua Frank*
2. Musical Theatre Guild will be having their annual Fall Production; will be having their annual Fall Production; which this year is “Rent”. The shows are Thursday and Friday night at 7:00 pm, Saturday at 1:30 pm and Saturday night at 7:00 pm. Tickets are $2.00 for children and Westfield Students, $4.00 for Faculty and Alumni and $6.00 for general admission.
3. Also, I need one more first year student for the Finance Committee. If you’re interested, please see me after the meeting, we meet on Monday’s at 2:45 pm.
4. Finance Report: **No Report**
5. Foundation Report**: No Report**
6. SERETARY’S REPORT: *Alexis Wagner*/*Sarah Hegarty*
7. Executive Secretary Report: **Alexis Wagner**
8. On behalf of the Office of Alumni Relations, I have a unit opportunity for you guys. Homecoming is this Saturday, October 19th down at Alumni Field and a lot of alumni will be coming back for that and we’re looking for some volunteers to help out with various parts of that. I’m passing around a volunteer shift sign-up sheet and a second packet that describes the shift tasks to be passed along with the sign ups.
9. Legislative Secretary Report: **Sarah Hegarty**
10. PARLIAMENTARIAN REPORT: Jennifer McDiarmid
11. COMMUTER COUNCIL, CLASS AND HALL REPORTS:
12. Commuter Council: **No Report**
13. Senior Class: **Brittany Moniz**
14. The Class of 2014 accepts the resignation of Kasey Gately as the Representative to Senate for the 2013-2014 Academic year.
15. The official class photo on the green will be rescheduled for the spring semester. More details to come.
16. Senor sweatshirt designs contest ends next, Tuesday so please continue sending them into our class email.
17. **Steve Mailloux**: Just out of curiosity, how many designs have you had submitted for the sweatshirt contest?
18. **Brittany Moniz**: There are between 10-15, and people are welcome to submit more than one.
19. Nomination boxes for Mr. Westfield contestants are out in each residence hall by the front desk. We are accepting nominations until November 1st. We will also be collecting nominations in the DC tomorrow, October 16th from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm and in the Commuter Café next Tuesday, October 22nd from 11:00 am until noon. Please nominate your friends or yourself, if you are interested.
20. The Senior Class council is planning a celebration of 100 days until Commencement. It will be held February 6th in the Owls Nest. We’d like to have a champagne toast to the last 100 days and have slideshow of senior photos to look back on senior year up to that point. If you have photos that you would like included, please send them to the 2014 class email.
21. **Tom Durkee**: Request of Information: If you would like your senior pictures included in the senior slideshow at graduation, start sending them in now. It’s never too early to capture those memories.
22. As always please see a 2014 council member or email [classof2014@Westfield.ma.edu](mailto:classof2014@Westfield.ma.edu) if you have any questions.
23. Our next scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, October 16th at 3:00 pm in the SGA Conference Room.
24. Junior Class: **No Report**
25. Sophomore Class**: No Report**
26. Freshman Class: **No Report**
27. Apartment Complex: **No Report**
28. Courtney Hall**: No Report**
29. Davis Hall: **No Report**
30. Dickinson Hall: **No Report**
31. Lammers Hall: **No Report**
32. Lansdowne Hall: **No Report**
33. New Hall: **No Report**
34. Scanlon Hall: **No Report**
35. University Hall**: No Report**
36. UNFIISHED BUSINESS**:**
37. NEW BUSINESS:

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
2. **Alexis Wagner**: Can I see the volunteer sheet for Homecoming? And anyone who is interested and did not get the sheet, see me after.
3. **Jennifer McDiarmid**: Rules and Regulations Committee will be meeting after this.
4. **Sarah Hegarty**: Can I get the contact sheet? There are four units due for October and you can also start sending in photos for the SGA slideshow.
5. **Joshua Frank**: If anyone is interested in doing the Washington Center Internship, feel free to ask me. Maureen McCarthy has some new information. And First years interested in Finance Committee, please come see me.
6. **Rebecca DiVico**: Can I get the committee list and can I see all the hall council presidents or a rep if your hall president is not here, by Taylor Fote’s office?
7. **Andrew McCormack**: I have course offering booklets in my office and there are plenty available outside of the Advising Center if you need one.
8. **Brittany Moniz**: The Student Ambassadors will be hosting a leadership workshop called “Lead with Integrity” on Monday, October 21st at 5:30 pm in the Owl’s Nest if anyone is interested.
9. **Taylor Fote**: If you’re interested in the Rays of Hope Walk, please see me after the meeting.
10. **Tom Durkee**: If you’d like to see Hocus Pocus, invite your friends, University Hall will be showing it tomorrow, October 16th at 9:00 pm on the projector. Snacks provided. There are 213 Days until Commencement.
11. ROLL CALL: Adam LaMontagne, Steven Barber, Molly Miller, Ashley Erskine, Brooke Laroche were absent. Luis Arzola, Lisa Lennon, Samantha Pellegrini, Yaira Castellon-Torres were excused. Jocelyn Herrera-Lazo, Ryan Losco and Andrw Morin sent alternates.
12. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.